

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1, 3-9, 11-19, 21-22, and 24-32 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please ADD new claims 34-58 in accordance with the following:

1. -33. (CANCELLED)

34. (NEW) An authentication apparatus comprising:  
a measuring part configured to measure biometric information of an individual;  
a converting part configured to carry out a predetermined conversion process with respect to the biometric information so as to obtain converted biometric information;  
an extracting part configured to extract feature information from the converted biometric information so as to obtain extracted feature information; and  
a verifying part configured to verify the extracted feature information with respect to registered information which is registered in advance, by comparing the extracted feature information and the registered information, so as to authenticate the individual.

35. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 34, which further comprises:  
an input part configured to input parameters used by said converting part for the predetermined conversion process.

36. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said converting part uses personal information related to the individual as the parameters.

37. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said verifying part receives the registered information by a communication which is made via a medium, and said converting part uses an enciphering key which is used for the communication as the parameters used for the predetermined conversion process.

38. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the registered information is prestored in a recording medium, and said verifying part reads the registered information from the recording medium.

39. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein said measuring part, said converting part, said extracting part and said verifying part are provided in a client computer, and said recording medium is read in the client computer.

40. (NEW) The authentication apparatus is claimed in claim 38, wherein said measuring part, said converting part, said extracting part and said verifying part are provided in a client computer, and said recording medium is read in a server computer which is coupled to the client computer via a network and the registered information read from the recording medium is supplied to said verifying part in the client computer via the network.

41. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein said measuring part, said converting part and said extracting part are provided in a client computer, said verifying part is provided in a server computer which is coupled to the client computer via a network, and said recording medium is read in the server computer.

42. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 34, further comprising:  
a registering part configured to store the extracted feature information as the registered information.

43. (NEW) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to authenticate an individual, said program comprising:

a measuring procedure causing the computer to measure biometric information of an individual;

a converting procedure causing the computer to carry out a predetermined conversion process with respect to the biometric information so as to obtain converted biometric information;

an extracting procedure causing the computer to extract feature information from the converted biometric information so as to obtain extracted feature information; and

a verifying procedure causing the computer to verify the extracted feature information with respect to registered information which is registered in advance, by comparing the extracted feature information and the registered information, so as to authenticate the individual.

44. (NEW) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein the program further comprises:

an input procedure causing the computer to input parameters used by said converting procedure for the predetermined conversion process.

45. (NEW) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein said verifying procedure causes the computer to read the registered information from a recording medium which prestores the registered information.

46. (NEW) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein said program further comprises:

a registering procedure causing the computer to register the extracted feature information as the registered information.

47. (NEW) An authentication apparatus comprising:  
a measuring part configured to measure biometric information of an individual;  
an extracting part configured to extract feature information from the biometric information so as to obtain extracted feature information;  
a converting part configured to carry out a predetermined conversion process with respect to the extracted feature information so as to obtain converted extracted feature information; and

a verifying part configured to verify the converted extracted feature information with respect to registered information which is registered in advance, by comparing the converted extracted feature information and the registered information, so as to authenticate the individual.

48. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 47, which further comprises:

an input part configured to input parameters used by said converting part for the predetermined conversion process.

49. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein said converting part uses personal information related to the individual as the parameters.

50. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein said

verifying part receives the registered information by a communication which is made via a medium, and said converting part uses an enciphering key which is used for the communication as the parameters used for the predetermined conversion process.

51. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the registered information is prestored in a recording medium, and said verifying part reads the registered information from the recording medium.

52. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein said measuring part, said extracting part, said converting part and said verifying part are provided in a client computer, and said recording medium is read in the client computer.

53. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein said measuring part, said extracting part, said converting part and said verifying part are provided in a client computer, and said recording medium is read in a server computer which is coupled to the client computer via a network and the registered information read from the recording medium is supplied to said verifying part in the client computer via the network.

54. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein said measuring part, said extracting part and said converting part are provided in a client computer, said verifying part is provided in a server computer which is coupled to the client computer via a network, and said recording medium is read in the server computer.

55. (NEW) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 47, further comprising:  
a registering part configured to register the converted extracted feature information as the registered information.

56. (NEW) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to authenticate an individual, said program comprising:

a measuring procedure causing the computer to measure biometric information of an individually;

an extracting procedure causing the computer to extract feature information from the biometric information so as to obtain extracted feature information;

a converting procedure causing the computer to carry out a predetermined conversion

process with respect to the extracted feature information so as to obtain converted extracted feature information; and

a verifying procedure causing the computer to verify the converted extracted feature information with respect to registered information which is registered in advance, by comparing the converted extracted feature information and the registered information, so as to authenticate the individual.

57 (NEW) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 56, wherein said program further comprises:

an input procedure causing the computer to input parameters used by said converting procedure for the predetermined conversion process.

58. (NEW) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 56, wherein said verifying procedure causes the computer to read the registered information from a recording medium which pestores the registered information.

59. (NEW) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 56, wherein said program further comprises:

a registering procedure causing the computer to register the converted extracted feature information as the registered information.